



City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

eNews

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Third Annual City of Alexandria Film Festival Features Local and International Artists

The Festival kicks off on Thursday, September 24 with “Contrasts,” a black-and-white extravaganza at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. “Contrasts” features music, refreshments, open artists’ studios, and an array of “silent” films projected simultaneously throughout the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Artists Association, the party is free and open to the public. Attendees are invited to dress in black and white. The Festival continues Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Featured films include:

Rumba (comedy). Friday, September 25 at 7:15 p.m.

In this French film, Dom and Fiona are in love, and Fiona is in love with dancing the rumba. On their way home from a dance one night, they encounter a would-be suicide. Their charitable act—turning their car into a wall to save him—turns their lives upside down. Changed and yet still sustained by their love, their lives take a completely new path.

Clean Mic: Laughing Until It Hurts (documentary). Friday, September 25 at 9 p.m.

Special guests: Will Gorham, Director/Writer, Freddi Vernell, comedian, and Sam Beamon, comedian.

An entertaining, thought-provoking exploration of the realities facing ethnic comedians — who want to do “clean comedy” — as they perform in American comedy clubs.

Idiots and Angels (animation). Friday, September 25 at 11 p.m.

This surreal animated feature film by two-time Academy Award nominee Bill Plympton has been called “a delightful comic adventure and an affecting tale about spiritual transformation.” The film follows a morally ambiguous man as he spends his days in a dead-end job and his nights in a dive bar. Suddenly, wings begin to sprout from his shoulders. Director Jim Jarmusch says: “This may be his best film yet!”

Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg (documentary). Saturday, September 26 at 7 p.m.

Special guest: Aviva Kempner, Director.

The story of Gertrude Berg, creator, principal writer, and star of “The Goldbergs,” a popular radio show for 17 years, which became TV’s first character-driven sitcom in 1949. Berg won the first Emmy Award for Best Actress and paved the way for women in television.

Nosferatu (silent). Saturday, September 26 at 9 p.m. Special Guest: Andrew Simpson, Organist, Library of Congress Packard Campus Theatre

A 1922 silent movie classic based on the story of "Dracula" with live accompaniment on the Masonic Memorial's 1954 Möller pipe organ. Directed by the legendary German director F.W. Murnau

After the Storm (documentary). Sunday, September 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Special guest: Hilla Medalia, Filmmaker.

The story of the production of the musical “Once on This Island” in New Orleans, from auditions through performance, highlighting the effects on each young actor’s life of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

Crude (documentary). Sunday, September 27 at 1:45 p.m.

Special guest: Steven Donziger, attorney featured in the film.

A high-stakes legal drama that gives the inside story of the famous “Amazon Chernobyl” case. Set against a backdrop of the environmental movement, corporate power, global politics, and rapidly disappearing indigenous peoples, the film was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at this year’s Sundance Film Festival.

Redemption Stone (documentary). Sunday, September 27 at 4:15 p.m.

Special guests: Tom Lewis and Tom Dzedzic, Director/Producer.

Tom Lewis, a DC resident, is the focus of this story of inspiration and change. Lewis is a storyteller of quiet power who recounts the social upheaval and rebirth that shape his life’s journey. A life-altering vision inspires Tom to open a program called The Fishing School to turn hardship into hope for the children in his community. Winner of the Festival’s Jury Prize.

The Festival is presented by the City of Alexandria Commission for the Arts, and the Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities. Sponsors include the City of Alexandria, Jennifer Walker, McEneaney Associates, Inc., The Grille at the Morrison House, George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria Gazette Packet and Torpedo Factory Artists Association.

For a complete schedule and to purchase Festival Passes at \$25 and One-Day Passes at \$10, visit www.AlexandriaFilm.org. Passes may be purchased at the door for \$35 per Festival Pass, and \$15 per One-Day Pass.

For more information, to screen film trailers, visit www.AlexandriaFilm.org or call the Durant Center at 703.746.5560. For press related questions, please call Alisa Carrel, Director, Office of the Arts, at 703.736.5590.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, call Cheryl Anne Colton of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities at 703.746.5565 or e-mail cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.